

Investigative Journalist | Writer | Content Strategist

A dynamic journalist with a strong background in breaking news, investigative reporting, and content strategy. Proven ability to deliver fast, accurate, and high-impact news coverage across digital and print platforms. Adept at working under tight deadlines, monitoring real-time developments, and crafting engaging narratives that inform and influence audiences. Expertise in AP Style, SEO optimization, and audience engagement strategies. Recently earned a Paralegal Certificate from UCLA Extension, strengthening my ability to cover legal and policy-driven news with depth and accuracy.

Core Skills & Qualifications

Breaking News Coverage & Fast-Paced Reporting | Investigative Journalism & Research | AP Style & SEO-Optimized Writing | Digital News Distribution & Social Media Strategy | Legal & Policy Reporting (Case Analysis, Regulatory News) | Interviewing & Source Development | Multimedia Storytelling (Video, Audio, Data Journalism) | Real-Time News Monitoring & Trend Analysis

Technical Experience: LexisNexis, Westlaw, Google Trends, Dataminr, Factiva Google Analytics, SEMrush, Ahrefs, Chartbeat WordPress, CMS, Newswire Services, Adobe Premiere, Canva, Datawrapper, Infogram

Work Experience

Contributing Writer | The Wave Newspaper

November 2024 – Present

- Report on breaking news, political developments, and social justice issues, producing fast, high-impact stories that engage readers.
- Work closely with editors to ensure accuracy, clarity, and balance in coverage, maintaining the highest journalistic standards.
- Monitor and analyze real-time news feeds, court records, and press briefings, identifying emerging trends and timely story angles.
- Develop relationships with key sources, public officials, and community leaders to gain exclusive insights and firsthand accounts.
- Utilize SEO and digital strategy techniques to optimize articles for search visibility and social media engagement.
- Collaborate with the newsroom's multimedia team to incorporate video, audio, and infographics, enhancing storytelling impact.

Freelance Journalist & Content Strategist | Various Publications

July 2022 – November 2024

- Produced real-time breaking news updates, investigative reports, and feature articles for multiple digital and print platforms.
- Monitored court proceedings, policy changes, and economic trends, providing timely coverage on legal, political, and financial topics.
- Developed and pitched high-impact, original story ideas that resonated with target audiences and aligned with industry trends.
- Managed content distribution across SEO-driven platforms, news syndication services, and social media to increase readership.
- Increased client website traffic by 15% through strategic content development and keyword optimization.

Senior Staff Writer LA Focus Newspaper

June 2012 – July 2022

- Led daily coverage on politics, business, and cultural affairs, consistently meeting tight deadlines in a fast-paced newsroom.
- Conducted in-depth investigative reports, exposing critical issues in government policies and community initiatives.
- Tracked breaking news across multiple beats, verifying facts and providing accurate coverage.
- Engaged in on-the-ground reporting for protests, legislative hearings, and major local events, delivering firsthand insights.
- Collaborated with photographers, video journalists, and graphic designers to create multi-platform storytelling experiences.
- Optimized long-form investigative pieces for SEO and audience engagement, driving a 25% increase in digital readership.

Portfolio & Published Work

JournoPortfolio: stephenoduntan.journoportfolio.com

Featured Articles:

- *Analysis: The Road Forward – Black Voices Look Ahead in 2025* – [Wave Publication](#)
- *Hate Crimes in County Reach Historic Levels* – [Wave Publication](#)
- *Watts Water Crisis Compared to Flint, Michigan* – [Wave Publication](#)

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Master of Arts in Creative Writing (Fiction) | Royal Holloway, University of London, UK - Dissertation: *The Significance of Conflict in Adichie's Novels*

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism | California State University, Long Beach, CA

Paralegal Certificate | UCLA Extension | November 2024